

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 ACDA-10 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7393

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIURT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, EG, US

SUBJ: ISRAELI CABINET ON JULY 6 CABINET MEET8NG AND

NEXT STEPS

SUMMARY. ISRAELI PRESS JULY 7 HIGHLIGHTS SEVEN-HOUR
CABINET MEETING PREVIOUS DAY, PRIMARY OUTCOME OF
WHICH WAS TO DELAY FINAL DECISION ON ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN
INTERIM SETTLEMENT UNTIL FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS OF
THE EGYPTIAN POSITIONS CAN BE RECEIVED FROM THE US.
AMBASSADOR DINITZ IS RETURNING TO US AFTER PARTICIPATING
IN CABINET MEETIN, REPOREDLY TO ACQUIRE FROM THE

SECRETARY THE DESIRED CLARIFICATIONS. REPORT FROM
WASHINGTON STATES SECRETARY IS SEEKING GOI AGREEMENT
TO WITHDRAW FROM PASSES PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR
EUROPE JULY 9. END SUMMARY.

1. BASED APPARENTLY ON DEEP BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

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WITH "A MOST SENIOR SOURCE," HAARETZ (GOLAN) WRITES

THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW BEING CONDUCTED ON THREE MAIN ELEMENTS, I.E.: (A) THE WITHDRAWAL LINE- IT SEEMS, ACCORDING TO GOLAN, THAT THERE WILL BE A COMPROMISE IN THE FORM OF AN AGREEMENT THAT THE ISRAELI LINE SHOULD RUN AT A DEPTH OF 3 KMS. THROUGH THE PASSES. (B) EXTENSION OF THE UN MANDATE-IT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT IN THE PUBLIC AGREEMENT IT WILL BE STIPULATED THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL BE VALID UNTIL A NEW ONE IS SIGNED AND THAT THE TWO STATES WILL AGREE TO EXTEND THE UN MANDATE EACH YEAR. HOWEVER, SINCE THESE STIPULATIONS ARE OF A GENERAL NATURE AND NOT BINDING FROM THE LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, ISRAEL HAS DEMANDED THAT IN A SEPARATE, SECRET AGREEMENT THE EXACT DURATION OF THE UNEF EXTENSION BE SPELLED OUT. THE PERIOD AGREED UPON IS THREE YEARS. TO THIS PERIOD SHOULD BE ADDED AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF 6-8 MONTHS, BECAUSE THE AGREEMENT WILL STIPULATE THAT THE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS WILL BEGIN AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WITHDRAWAL. (C) POLITICAL ELEMENTS-GOLAN REPORTS THAT EGYPT WILL COMMIT HERSELF IN A SECRET AGREEMENT TO MODERATE ITS PROPAGANDA WARFARE AND TO REMOVE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF U.S. FIRMS FROM THE ECONOMIC BOYCOTT LIST. THE CLARIFICATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN REQUESTED IN THIS RESPECT REFER TO THE EXACT FORMULATION OF THE CLAUSES OF THE AGREEMENT. (D) ELECTRONIC WARNING SYSTEMS-EGYPT HAS AGREED TO LEAVE THEM, IN PLACE BUT THERE REMAINS THE QUESTION OF MANNING THEM. ACCORDING TO THE CLARIFICATIONS WHICH DINITZ CONVEYED TO THE CABINET, EGYPT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS INSISTENCE THAT THE INSTALLATIONS BE MANNED BY A THIRD PARTY. DINITZ WILL INFORM THE US THAT ISRAEL INSISTS THAT THE INSTALLATIONS BE MANNED BY THE IDF AND FOR THAT PURPOSE ISRAEL SHOULD BE GIVEN FREE ACCESS TO THEM.

2. GOLAN ADDS THAT, ON CRUCIAL QUESTION OF NEW WITHDRAWAL LINE, CABINET DECIDED THAT IT IS NOW " EGYPT'S TURN" TO SUBMIT A DETAILED PROPOSAL, WHICH ISRAEL WOULD THEN ACCEPT OR REJECT. " SENIOR OBSERVERS" BELIEVE EGYPT WILL COME FORTH WITH A WITHDRAWAL MAP, ALBEIT IN GUISE OF US
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PROPOSAL. THESE OBSERVERS ALSO BELIEVE EGYPTIAN MAP WILL BE SUCH AS TO ENABLE ISRAEL TO ACCEPT IT. THIS WILL ENABLE EGYPT TO CLAIM THAT ISRAEL HAS ACCEPTED AN EGYPTIAN OFFER RATHER THAN THE REVERSE.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING CABINET DESIRE FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS AND GOI INSISTENCE ON RETAINING PART OF EASTERN END OF PASSES, HAARETZ (MARGALIT) REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT US WANTS TO RECEIVE FROM ISRAEL BEFORE SECRETARY LEAVES FOR EUROPE JULY 9 AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO

WITHDRAW FROM THE PASSES. MARGALIT ADDS THAT RABIN ALSO WANTS TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM SECRETARY THAT US WILL BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IF ISRAEL CONCLUDES INTERIM AGREEMENT. (MARGALIT STATES THAT SECRETARY WILL MEET RABIN IN BONN JULY 12.)

4. APPARENTLY BASED ON SAME BACKGROUNDER, JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU) ATTRIBUTES TO " HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES" THE VIEW THAT US-ISRAELI BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE CLOSELY LINKED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. IN THIS VEIN, ACCORDING TO THOSE SOURCES, THE GOI HAS CONCLUDED THAT A STRENGTHENED US PROSITION IN EGYPT AND MIDDLE EAST IS IN ISRAEL'S LONG-TERM INTERESTS, BUT THAT ISRAEL MUST ASSURE ITSELF THAT PRICE IT IS BEING ASKED TO PAY FOR THIS IS NOT TOO HIGHT. GOI HAS THEREFORE ASKED DINITZ TO SEEK " FIRM COMMITMENTS" FROM WASHINGTON ON THREE POINTS: A) THAT AFTER INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, US WOULD NOT PRESS ISRAEL FOR ANOTHER AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA; (B) THAT DURING THE DURATION OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT THE US WOULD NOT INITIATE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT PLAN WITHOUT COORDINATION WITH ISRAEL; AND (C) THAT THE US WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO LONG-TERM ISRAELI MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID REQUIREMENTS AND WOULD ACT TO COMPENSATE ISRAEL FOR LOSS OF ABU RODEIS OIL.

5. THE SAME SOURCES ALSO STRESSED THAT ISRAEL IS NOT DELIBERATELY DRAGGING ITS FEET IN ITS DELIBERATIONS, BUT NEITHER WOULD IT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE RUSHED INTO WHAT IT CONSIDERS CRUCIAL DECISIONS. THE BASIC DECISION CONFRONTING THE CABINET IS DESCRIBED AS WHETHER TO ENTER INTO SHARP CONFRONTATION WITH THE US AT THIS TIME OR POSTPONE IT
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FOR " TWO OR THREE YEARS." IN EITHER CASE, IT IS BELIEVED, SUCH CONFRONTATION IS INEVITABLE SINCE THE US DOES NOT ACCEPT THE ISRAELI DEMAND FOR SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PRE-1967 BORDERS. HOWEVER, THE GOI APPARENTLY SEES SUCH A CONFRONTATION TAKING PLACE IN MUCH BETTER CONTEXT A FEW YEARS HENCE BECAUSE OF THE EXPECTED IMPORVEMENT IN US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS DUE IN PART TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT NOW UNDER DISCUSSION.
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